ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE

Provincial Operations Intelligence Bureau

SITUATION REPORT

DATE: 2022-01-26

FILE NAME: Project HENDON

Report#: 023-2022

Event: Freedom Convoy/Bearhug 2.0

Protected B - Medium Sensitivity - Particularly sensitive information requiring protection.		
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CONVOY COUNT (*Source: OPP Provincial Liaison Team*)

2022-01-25 2240 HRS: 113 commercial vehicles; 276 passenger vehicles

2022-01-26 1600 HRS: 471 vehicles

**CONVOY ROUTE: KENORA - THUNDER BAY - HWY 17 EASTBOUND **

The information in this report is current to 2022-01-26 at 1600 hours.

POLICE INFORMATION & OBSERVATIONS

1. The Ottawa Police Service has advised that they have received a telephone call in which an unknown male threatened to shoot any police officer in the head if they attempted to block him; that he would drive his truck into an Ottawa Police Service station; and that "they" would target three police stations. The reporting indicates that the male did not specify a motive, but that he was upset about the truck convoy. The available information does not indicate whether he supported or opposed the convoy. (**RELIABLE**)

2. Project HENDON has received information indicating that [redacted] (a.k.a. "RAGING DISSIDENT") may attend the Freedom Convoy in Ottawa. [redacted] is reported to hold anti-government ideology and to have made veiled threats against the Prime Minister in the past. The RCMP has advised that [redacted] has been arrested for firearms offences and that firearms and accessories were seized. He will likely be released on a Promise to Appear with no travel restrictions. (**RELIABLE**)

3. On 2022-01-25, the OPP received a complaint indicating that [redacted] had posted a video online showing him loading a gun; that he was posting images of weapons that he owns; and that he might travel to Ottawa to attend the protest. The complainant described [redacted] vehicle as a dark pick-up truck with a heavy-duty grill on the front and a large sticker with the word "FREEDOM" across the cab. [1] **(UNKNOWN RELIABILITY)**
    a. ***Analytical Comment:*** *We believe that this vehicle may be a support vehicle for the convoy. Online videos of the convoy in Manitoba on 2022-01-25 shows this vehicle, acting at the direction of* [redacted] *blocking an intersection so that the convoy can turn. At one point, the male driver exits the vehicle and, upon seeing a transport truck hauling a piece of heavy equipment, the male driver of this vehicle suggests that the equipment could be used to remove roadblocks. It is unknown whether* [redacted] *is the driver.*
    b. Project HENDON subsequently received two images alleged to be of [redacted] (***source unknown***). In one image he is wearing two handguns and posing with what appears to be an automatic weapon; in the second, which appears to be a still from a video, he is sitting at a table apparently loading a handgun. The latter image is captioned "The Revolution has STARTED". **(UNKNOWN RELIABILITY)**
    c. Open Source research was able to locate and capture the video of the male loading the handgun. (**RELIABLE**)
    d. The complainant stated that [redacted] was also posting images of guns online. **(UNKNOWN RELIABILITY)**
    e. [redacted] has been identified as [redacted] (a.k.a. FREEDOM [redacted] of High Prairie, Alberta. (**RELIABLE**)
    f. Open source research identified a Facebook page in the name of [redacted] that includes pro-Freedom Convoy and anti-government messages and images, including an image of Prime Minister Trudeau apparently being run down by a transport truck (*previously reported on 2021-01-22*). The available information is insufficient to confirm that the user of this social media account is the individual in question. (**RELIABLE**)

4. In a video posted to social media, [redacted], a national organizer and driver for the convoy, encourages participants and supporters to stop making public comments about Prime Minister TRUDEAU needing to step down, as politicians were looking for reasons to keep the convoy from reaching Ottawa. Later in the same video, he calls for a support vehicle to block the flow of oncoming traffic so that the convoy can make a left turn. He repeats the call for the support vehicle to block the entrances, stating that he doesn't care if it makes "them mad", as it will only take 20 minutes. He also directed the convoy drivers to "squeeze" another vehicle travelling along the highway shoulder. [2]

[1] OPP occurrence E220084931
[2] OPP HENDON OS Capture 66 – KING Update

[redacted]s Alberta driver's licence identifies him as a suspended driver: videos of [redacted] from social media depict him driving a vehicle in the Freedom Convoy. (**RELIABLE**)

5. The Sûreté du Québec advises that almost 4500 people may attend in Ottawa. (**UNCONFIRMED**)

6. The Sûreté du Québec advises that 1900 people are already protesting in Gatineau. **(RELIABLE)**

7. The Sûreté du Québec also advises that organizers of the convoy from eastern Canada estimate that the convoy may consist of 400 vehicles when it crosses the Quebec-Ontario border. **(UNCONFIRMED)**

8. CBSA has advised that it is unlikely that any trucks from the US will cross the border to join the convoy. **(RELIABLE)**

OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION (Media and Social Media)

Information from open sources, including the media and social media, is critical for developing all-source intelligence that provides context, and which identifies indicators of ideologies, beliefs, and attitudes that motivate subjects of interest and influence their behaviours. This component of all-source intelligence is vital for informing law enforcement in developing strategies and tactics to prevent, mitigate or respond to potential threats.

Items in this section are presented in order of seriousness of the potential threat:

9. A CTV report on the Freedom Convoy includes a clip where four males identified as "Canadian Bigots" discuss the convoy, and indicate that they might attend in Ottawa. One, identified as "RANTS", states that "we" should have "our own January 6 event" and that he would like to see some of the trucks "plow right through that 16-foot wall". He is quick to follow up stating that they would not actually do this, but he would like to see it. [3] According to the CANADIAN ANTI HATE NETWORK, members of the DIAGOLON network use the label "bigots" sarcastically to refer to themselves. A DIAGOLON flag is visible behind one of the males. [4] (**RELIABLE**)

10. A review of the FREEDOM CONVOY GoFundMe page on 2022-01-26 at 2017 hours indicates that [redacted] has joined the page as an organizer along with [redacted] This appears to have occurred since 1140 hours on 2022-01-26, when the GoFundMe page was captured for the daily situation report. (**RELIABLE**)

[3] OPP HENDON OS Capture 61.3 – CTV Video
[4] https://www.antihate.ca/holocaust_denier_travelling_canada_building_up_far_right_militia_diagolon_alex_vriend (accessed 2022-02-25)

11. An update on the GoFundMe page from 2022-01-25 bears his name as the author and identifies him as a "team member". The update states that they will be engaging with the media directly in the coming days and claims that [redacted] was never affiliated to their "movement" and does not represent the Freedom Convoy. The update further states that he and [redacted] are the only spokespeople for the convoy. (**UNRELIABLE**)

A cursory internet search for [redacted] indicates that he is based in East York. (**RELIABLE**)

A quote attributed to him on the CANADIAN ANTI-HATE NETWORK's Twitter page indicates that he espouses Islamophobic ideology. **(UNRELIABLE)**

His Facebook page notes that he is a co-founder of the "THE POSSIBLY CORRECT PODCAST NETWORK". **(UNRELIABLE)**

A review of the content of THE POSSIBLY CORRECT PODCAST NETWORK indicates that it includes pro-convoy, anti-government, and anti-authority content. **(RELIABLE)**

A search in OPP Niche RMS yielded one occurrence for [redacted] with an address as [redacted] **(RELIABLE)**

The information in the occurrence suggests that he may be a dump truck operator.[5] **(UNKNOWN RELIABLE)**

Analyst Comment: *The available information suggests that* [redacted] *is the individual who is noted as the new co-spokesperson and organizer on the Freedom Convoy GoFundMe page, however this is unconfirmed. It is unknown how* [redacted] *know each other, or why he was added to the GoFundMe page.*

12. A Facebook Event page has been established called COMMUTE TO OTTAWA looking for people from SIX NATIONS to join the convoy. It includes a post in the name of [redacted] **(RELIABLE)**

13. A message posted to social media claims that 150 truck drivers have been banned from Facebook for sharing content related to the Freedom Convoy. **(UNRELIABLE)**

14. The above-noted post ***(point 13)*** also claims that thousands of truck drivers are planning to join to convoy, and if they are not permitted to cross the border, then they will block the border points. **(UNKNOWN RELIABILITY)**

[5] OPP occurrence TK20001795 dated 2020-01-15

15. Media reporting indicates that [redacted] is encouraging convoy participants to note the license plate number of any driver who acts aggressively or incites any type of violence or hatred during the protest, noting that organizers will forward the information to police. The reporting also quotes her stating that anyone who does not behave in an orderly manner will be removed. **(UNKNOWN RELIABILITY)**

16. The GoFundMe account supporting the Freedom Convoy has raised $5.3 million (2022-01-26 1137 hours). **(RELIABLE)**

17. A separate fundraiser ("ADOPT A TRUCKER") on the crowdfunding site "GiveSendGo.com" has raised $33,207 (2022-01-26 1138hours). **(RELIABLE)**

ASSESSMENT

Although convoy organizers have repeatedly stated the intention to conduct a lawful protest, the available information suggests that elements within the convoy, or supporting the convoy, could engage in actions that pose a public safety threat. Convoy organizers will almost certainly have minimal influence or control over the behaviour of these individuals. The noted video of the convoy in Manitoba depicts a level of disregard for other motorists, as well as behaviour by both convoy participants and supporters that poses a road safety issue. The fact that [redacted] is a suspended driver, yet is driving in the convoy, indicates a disregard for the law.

The potential presence of individuals who espouse fringe ideologies and have access to weapons in the convoy and at the protest in Ottawa could increase the threat level to public figures, property, the public, and law enforcement during this event. Disinformation and misinformation on the internet poses a potential threat to public figures and an officer safety threat. Erroneous or provocative comments online continue to fuel conspiracy theories with regard to the government's view of the convoy and could increase the level of any antagonism that some convoy participants and supporters may hold toward public officials and law enforcement. It is possible that further threats to police may be made. It is unknown whether any threat will escalate to action.

[redacted]'s call to stop talking publicly about forcing the Prime Minister to step down may be an attempt to gain plausible deniability in the event that the Prime Minister is harassed or threatened. It also indicates an awareness that public comments by convoy members or supporters may be monitored.

However, Project HENDON has not identified any concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest.

TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **Unconfirmed information of unknown reliability suggests that** some convoy participants or supporters may bring weapons **with them to Ottawa;**
- **Unconfirmed information of unknown reliability suggests that the convoy may be transporting heavy machinery that may be used during the protest in Ottawa;**
- Video of the convoy entering Brandon, Manitoba on 2022-01-25 showed people standing on snowbanks along the side of the highway and on the shoulder of the highway as the convoy drove past. It also showed a leader of the convoy giving directions to not allow one private vehicle onto the highway and to block roadways to allow the convoy to turn. These actions represent a road safety issue for convoy drivers, supporters, and the motoring public.

INTELLIGENCE GAPS (COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS)

Priority intelligence gaps are in red font.

- Participant numbers - online indicators are unreliable;
- Nature of activities in Ottawa by advance convoy participants (2022-01-28 - 2022-01-29);
- Events possibly scheduled at Parliament Hill on 2022-01-30;
- Extent of extremist participation in convoy protest and intent of extremist actors;
- Potential for some participants to bring weapons or be armed;
- Nature and location of evening event in Kingston (2022-01-27);
- Date and location of delivery of port-a-potties and security fencing; location of installation of same;
- Plans for any further action should demands not be met;
- Plans for departing Ottawa.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Updates are in green font.

2022-01-26

- **Local Convoys:** Local convoys are occurring today in Lambton-Sarnia and Windsor-Essex.

2022-01-27

- **Local Convoys:** Local slow rolls are scheduled in Windsor-Essex until 2022-01-27.
- **Ayr: Cheer On Our Truckers Overpass Rally** – Hwy 401 at Northumberland Rd (0930 hours).
- **Six Nations: Commute to Ottawa** – Six Nations Bingo (1300 hours).
- **Milton: Send-Off Freedom Convoy 2022 –** Regional Rd 25 (1120-1230 hours).
- **Kitchener-Waterloo: TriCities Support Freeedom Convoy 2022** – Bridge at Hwy 401 and Homer Watson Park (1045 hours).
- **Camden East: Freedom Convoy County Rd 4 –** Hwy 401/County Rd 4 overpass (1600 hours).
- **Strathroy: Convoy to Ottawa 2022 –** Hwy 81 Strathroy (0730 hours).
- **Vaughan: Convoy Send Off For Toronto –** Vaughan Mills, Bass Pro Shop parking lot, 1 Bass Pro Mills Drive (1130 hours).
- **Vaughan: Cheer From The Bridge –** start time 1245 hours at the following locations:
    - Langstaff Overpass (parking Silmar Rd. Plaza);
    - Portage Parkway Overpass (parking Walmart Applewood Cres.);
    - Highway 7 Overpass (parking Cineplex Famous Ave.);
    - Shepherd Ave. Overpass (Parking Abraham Welsh Rd. at Starbucks plaza);
    - **Finale Event (1300-1515 hrs)** - Keele St. Overpass (parking at Metro on Keele/Wilson. ****Advertisement notes that two lanes on the overpass will be shut down.****

- **Kingston: Freedom Convoy –** start time 1700 hours or later at the following locations:
    - Old Wilton Rd overpass;
    - Westbrook Rd overpass;
    - Hwy 38 between Hwy 401 and Centennial Drive.

2022-01-28

- **Owen Sound: Grey Bruce United We Stand –** MTO pull-off (0900-1100 hours).
  - Route as follows:
    - South on Hwy 6/10 South (0930 hours);
    - Depart Chatsworth (0940 hours);
    - Depart Flesherton (1010 hours);
    - Depart Shelburne (1040 hours);
    - Depart Orangeville (1100 hours);
    - East on Hwy 9 to Hwy 400 South;
    - East Hwy 401 on route to Ottawa.

- **Innisfil: Freedom Convoy 2022 –** 400 OnRoute (before 1000 hours). Vehicles will drive to 1 Bass Pro Mills Road to cheer on the convoy.

- **Hamilton: Hamilton Sends Off Convoy for Freedom** – 349 Kenora Avenue, Hamilton (0900 hours).

- **Espanola: Protest** – Hwy 17 and Hwy 6 (0900 hours).

- **Trenton: Freedom Convoy Trenton HWY 401-**HWY 401 Glenn Miller exit (Ramada Inn) (1400 hours).

- **Kingston: Freedom Convoy** – start time 1930 hours at the following locations:
  - Hwy 38 between Hwy 401 and Centennial Dr;
  - Sydenham Rd overpass;
  - Montreal St overpass.

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